

We claim:

1. An escalator, comprising a balustrade, a balustrade base, steps for the transportation of persons  
5 and objects, a handrail construction with a handrail arranged on the balustrade, the balustrade having a reversing zone wherein a direction of travel of the handrail is reversed by means of a drivable reversing sheave, and a handrail-drive having means for driving the  
10 reversing sheave peripherally.
2. The escalator according to claim 1, wherein the handrail-drive has a drive-wheel that drives the reversing sheave, the drive-wheel being a friction wheel or a  
15 gearwheel.
3. The escalator according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the handrail drive is arranged in the balustrade base and has a controllable motor as a drive for the drive-wheel.  
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4. The escalator according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising a driving main shaft coupled to the drive-wheel and to a step-chain.
- 25 5. The escalator according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the drive-wheel has a friction surface in a form of a smooth surface and the reversing sheave has a friction surface in a form of a knurled surface.
- 30 6. The escalator according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the drive-wheel has spur toothing for engaging the reversing sheave.
7. The escalator according to claim 1 or 2, further  
35 comprising supporting cheeks for the reversing sheave

having dark tinting adjacent a peripheral zone of the reversing sheave.